



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA TO MEASURE DRY HAY AND OTHER CROP INTENTIONS

Although cold weather and snow are here, this is the time of year farmers begin planning for the upcoming crop season. How many acres of which crops will be planted? How much hay will be cut in 2005, and how will this compare with 2004? These are just a few of many decisions farmers will be making as spring approaches.

The New England Agricultural Statistics Service, a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, is responsible for publishing statistics about crop intentions across New England. These figures are based on information gathered from the National March Agricultural Survey. Results from this survey allow producers to make sound planting decisions based on changes in agricultural markets and planting intentions reported in this survey. In New England, the survey measures acreage expected to be cut for dry hay and area planted to field corn, barley, and oats.

Approximately 2,100 New England farmers have been selected to take part in this nationwide effort to measure farmers' planting intentions for 2005. "The cooperation of New England farmers is essential in order to ensure that agriculture in each state is measured accurately," said Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England Agricultural Statistics Service.

The producers selected to participate will be mailed a letter requesting their assistance with this project. Interviewers will conduct personal or telephone interviews between February 25 and March 11, 2005. All questionnaires and information about individual farms will be held in strict confidence. The data will be used in combination with reports from other producers to prepare official crop statistics.

National survey results will be available in the **Prospective Plantings** report from Washington, D.C. at 8:30 a.m. on March 31, 2005. All reports will be available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. New England statistics based on this survey will be reprinted in the April issue of the **monthly Ag Review**. This monthly New England newsletter is available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/nh/ and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All National statistics and State level newsletters are available free from e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

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